



BernCo Home Rule Urban County Charter Fact Sheet

- The charter incorporates the county's ethics and transparency efforts, which could not be changed without voter approval.
- The charter also specifies an investment oversight committee to help keep an eye on millions in taxpayer investments. Again, a future commission could change or rescind this ordinance.
- The charter provides flexibility to expand the size of the commission if necessary as population changes in future years. This would be subject to voter approval.
- The charter would allow the county to receive many more federal grants directly. Today, this process often must be approved by state government and the money flows through state agencies before reaching Bernalillo County communities.
- The charter would allow the commission to create local preferences in an effort to purchase more goods and services from businesses located in Bernalillo County. This is not allowed under current state law.

- The charter would give the county the ability to create its own purchasing rules, subject to state and federal law, county Code of Conduct and other ethical safeguards. This would expedite the procurement process for certain purchases, such as road maintenance, construction and professional services.
- The charter would allow more flexibility for entering into public/private partnerships, such as real estate transactions that would help consolidate the county's many aging office buildings.
- The charter would allow the county the ability to add exceptions to the procurement process, such as specialized services for substance abuse and mental health needs.
- The charter also allows the county to enforce zoning and building codes more quickly and efficiently, rather than going through state district court at every step. This allows the county to take care of problem and nuisance properties more quickly.